



Hunting

Balcones Canyonlands

National Wildlife Refuge

Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge is one of more than 550 national wildlife refuges located throughout the United States. The primary objective of a national wildlife refuge is to provide habitat for the conservation of wildlife, native species in particular. Carefully managed hunts maintain wildlife populations at a level compatible with available habitat and provide recreational opportunities.

Regulations

Public hunting for deer, feral hogs, and turkey will be allowed on select tracts on Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. Areas closed to hunting will be designated on maps and marked with signs and/or barricades.

Hunting on the refuge will be allowed only with a Balcones Canyonlands NWR hunt special use permit and in accordance with refuge hunting regulations. All hunters will be assigned tracts to hunt. In most cases, hunters are allowed to move around in their assigned tracts. A person must be at least 12 years old to participate in this hunt program.

In addition to federal regulations, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department laws and regulations in effect unless further restricted by Federal law or regulations.

Hunters must check in their game at the designated check station on the day the game was killed, and before leaving the refuge.

No person shall unreasonably disturb or annoy other persons on the refuge. No audio equipment, such as radios or other noise making devices, may be used in such a manner that may disturb others in the vicinity.

Licenses, permits, all hunting equipment and effects, and vehicles or other conveyances are subject to inspection by Federal or State officers.

No baiting or feeding of wildlife is allowed on the refuge. No camping is allowed on the refuge.

Portable hunting stands will be allowed. They may be set up during scouting week, but must be removed when a hunter's permit expires. The refuge is not responsible for theft of hunting stand(s). Driving nails, spikes, or other metal objects into trees or hunting from trees in which metal objects have been driven is prohibited.

Antlerless deer, spike bucks, feral hogs, and bearded turkeys are legal to take during the General Hunt. After the hunter has checked-in an antlerless deer to their Refuge Check Station may he/she legally take one buck (3 points or more). **Only one buck** (3 points or more) may be taken during the 2006 hunt. (Refer to Texas Parks and Wildlife *Outdoor Annual* under "County Listings" for bag limits.) Bearded turkey, feral hogs and any deer are legal to take during the Youth hunt season. (Refer to Texas Parks and Wildlife *Outdoor Annual* under "County Listings" for bag limits.)

Legal weapons for hunting on the refuge are concurrent with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department rules and regulations. **Dogs may not be used for scouting or hunting.**

Safety

All hunters, ages 12-17, on the refuge must be accompanied by someone 21 years of age or older. One adult may supervise up to two youth hunters.

All hunters must visibly wear 400 square inches of hunter orange above the waist while hunting or scouting. All hunters must wear a hunter orange hat or cap.

Fires, target practice, and possession or use of alcoholic beverages while hunting on the refuge is prohibited.

Hunters should not shoot at a target that is not *completely* identified.

Hunting is not permitted within 50 yards of a road open to vehicular travel or 200 yards of a building.

Public Access

Hunter access will be allowed on improved roads only. Hunters are encouraged to drive with caution on access roads, since many access roads can be muddy, eroded, graveled, or run through creeks and streams. Please do not block gates or roads.

Firearms may not be brought into the refuge while scouting. A valid hunt permit will be required to enter designated hunt areas for scouting and hunting. When you arrive at your unit, the gate will be closed, but unlocked. Please keep the gate closed after entering.

The refuge is open during daylight hours for scouting November 4-10, November 17, December 1, and December 8. When scouting, proceed directly to your designated hunt unit. Checking in at a check station is not required for scouting.

Hunters must first report to the check station *each day* before hunting and when finished hunting. Check station opens at 4:45 am.

The refuge manager may close all or part of the refuge—including roads—without notice to safeguard refuge resources or for safety reasons.

Permit Process

To apply for the General Hunt, a \$10 application fee per person is required. Applications are available (PDF) on refuge website. Send a certified check, cashiers check, or money order, made out to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with application(s). Hunt permits are required of all hunters and adults (21 years old or older) supervising youth hunters. Hunt permits are transferable for \$25.

A permit fee of \$50 is required for the general gun hunt. Permits for the youth hunt are free (ages 12-16). Permit applications can be obtained by mail (call or write to the address below) or at the refuge office. Youth hunters who do not get a free youth permit may apply for the general gun hunt (\$50 fee required for a hunt permit).

By August 21, 2006, hunt applications must be returned to the refuge office by 1:00 p.m. or postmarked .

A random public drawing will be held in September to determine who receives hunt permits. Hunt permits will be valid for two consecutive days of hunting during the hunting season (see below). Only youth hunters (ages 12-16) may hunt during November 11-12, 2006.

Persons with Disabilities Hunt

Available to disabled youth and adult hunters possessing a pertinent and valid proof of disability. Call for details.

2006 Hunt Seasons

Youth	November 11-12
General	November 18-19 December 2-3 December 9-10

For Additional Information Contact:

Refuge Manager
Balcones Canyonlands NWR
24518 FM 1431, Box 1
Marble Falls, Texas 78654
512/339-9432
512/267-6530 Fax
<http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/texas/balcones/index.htm>

Texas State Relay Service
1 800/735-2989